



**STATE OF INDIANA
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To the Editor:

With many new faces in state government comes another effort to revive daylight-saving time. Many of us are starting to feel like Bill Murray to recent editorials, this issue has been discussed 24 times over the past 30 years and it has received a vote on the House floor at least twice in the past 12 years.

It is important to remember the impact this change would have on the lives of thousands of Hoosiers. Here is why bringing daylight-saving time to Indiana is a bad idea for many.

For the 50,000 or so Hoosiers across our state (over 3,000 in the 42nd District which I represent) who live in Indiana and work in Illinois, passing daylight-saving time while remaining in the Eastern Time Zone would mean their 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. job would become a 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. job because Indiana time would be an hour earlier than Illinois all year long.

That means in the summer these workers would not get home until close to 7 p.m., and they probably will not be able to watch or coach their kids in baseball, softball, soccer or do much of anything as families.

I wonder how other Hoosiers would feel about a law requiring them to work from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.? That's the practical impact of adopting daylight-saving time in our current time zone for these workers.

Now, consider what happens if we adopt daylight-saving time and move to the Central Time Zone. First, any time zone change must be approved by either an act of Congress or action by the US Secretary of Transportation, not the Indiana General Assembly. Even then, counties next to another time zone may petition the US Secretary of Transportation for movement to the adjacent time zone, making it impossible to achieve the supporters' stated goal of a uniform time throughout Indiana.

Moving to the Central Time Zone would also mean it'll be dark in parts of Indiana as early as 5 p.m. in the winter months and would transfer other problems to people living near the Ohio/Indiana line.

To me, these options are unacceptable, as half the state would be at a disadvantage under either change. From listening to my constituents, it is obvious that the best of all possible worlds (or the one that causes the fewest problems) is our present law.

The time issue is handled in the current manner because Hoosiers understand that making a change would impact many families negatively. Indiana's time zones may be fodder for cheap humor from Hollywood-types like those who write for "The West Wing," but it works for the people who live here.

It will always be a different time elsewhere as the sun can't be everywhere at once.

Our current system has been developed over many years from trial and error. We are not just being contrary. To initiate change for the sake of gaining a uniform time across Indiana – which cannot happen, anyway – will only cause greater confusion.

This issue will generate more interest and more comments than any other I face as a state legislator, primarily because its impact is understood by everyone and it will affect everyone.

My views on this issue will reflect those of the majority of my constituents. I will poll them again on my legislative survey, but I've already heard from plenty of people whenever I'm out in public. They tell me the same thing.

“Leave the time alone.”

F. Dale Grubb

State Representative